

### REMARKS

**Claims in the Application.** Claims 1, 9, 15 and 18 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are active in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**Examiner's Rejection of the Claims under 35 USC § 102(e).** The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,793,018 ("*Dawson*") and US Patent No. 7,036,690 ("*Harris*"). This ground of rejection is traversed.

The claims of Applicants are directed to a method of forming a blocking gel within a wellbore within a subterranean formation by use of a crosslinkable fluid containing carboxymethyl guar (CMG) and a crosslinking agent. Col. 5 line 15 - col. 6, line 55 and Table 1 of *Dawson*, relied upon by the Examiner, does not disclose the claimed invention of Applicants. These passages are directed to the use of a fracturing fluid which contains a hydratable polymer and a crosslinking agent. The claims of Applicants recite forming a blocking gel or barrier within the formation. Such gels may be used to protect the production zone as well as the non-productive or thief zone. See, for example p. 1, ll. 19-22 as well as p. 8, ll. 18-23 of the originally filed specification of Applicants. Applicants do not claim a method of fracturing. Fracturing is a distinct method from the claimed method directed to the formation of a blocking gel or barrier within a formation. The Examiner is respectfully requested therefore to withdraw the rejection of the claims of Applicants over *Dawson*.

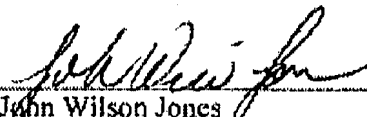
*Harris*, like U.S. Patent No. 5,210,370 ("*Tjon-Joe-Pin*"), cited in the last Office Action, is directed to a method of fracturing. In *Harris*, a two stage fracturing process is disclosed wherein the "first stage fluid" contains a gel breaker which creates or extends a fracture. The "second stage fluid" containing proppant in a viscous liquid is then introduced into the fracture. There is no disclosure in *Harris* of pumping crosslinkable gel or gelled crosslinkable fluid into the formation and forming a blocking gel or barrier within the formation. The method claimed by Applicants is not disclosed in *Harris*. The rejection of the claims over *Harris* should therefore not be maintained. Reconsideration is requested.

**Citation of References.** Applicants submitted a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on September 12, 2006, a copy of which is attached. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge her consideration of the cited references.

**Conclusions.** In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

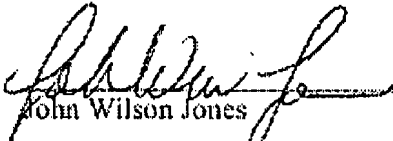
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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION, 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 via facsimile, (571) 273-8300 on this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2007.

  
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